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Evaluation: (C-3)

SUBJECT: Veli Kkyum KHAN and The Turkestan National League

NOTE. This information is a partial reply to Wash (cable) No. 3480 of 10 October 1946.

1. V. Kkyum KHAN is the recognized spiritual leader of the anti-Bolshevik elements among the Turkmen, Uzbek, Tadzik, Kazak, Kirgiz, and Kara-Kalpak tribes. KHAN is the last descendant of the Turkestan royal family and is still accepted as the ruler by the various tribes enumerated above.

2. KHAN's official exile political organization is the "Turkestan National League" (TNL). His exile government is called the "Turkestan National Council" (TNC). KHAN is the president of the TNC and the chief of the TNL.

3. The TNL is oriented politically to Ankara. It has close ties with Northern Caucasians within the USSR and with Egypt and Syria. Most of the exiled members of TNL live in Turkey; many of these are in the Turkish Army. TNL represents the pan-Turk and pan-Islam movement.

4. TNL has also members actively engaged in fighting against the Czech within its borders. The TNL partisans are known as "Basmatchi".

5. KHAN's "repatriation" has been demanded by the Czech Government (On the list was also the name of his Georgian friend Gen. BITCHIRAKOV, Mr. Lager 73-74, 3rd Army, Ludwigsburg, Barrack V, Group V, Room 86, Ausweis No. 16166). Contrary to the previous report (See MEC/MEMO/034, Para. II), the Czechs have no claim of any sort on KHAN since he has never been their subject. The Czech demand is comparable to the Yugoslav demand for "repatriation" of the Grand MUFTI, obvious objective of which was to compromise the Anglo-Americans in the eyes of the Arabs. Unlike the MUFTI who fully collaborated with the Germans, Veli K. KHAN has never allowed the Germans to direct the TNL fight against the Soviets, he only allowed the Germans to support this fight financially.

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6. KHAN's present "address" is: FWC, APO 751, Hospital,
Dachau, Bavaria.

7. COMMENT: Non-deliver of KHAN to the Czechs would be received greatly by the Turk world. His release would put many Turkmen, Kazakh, Kirgis, Uzbek, Tadzik, and Kara-Kalpak tribe members under personal obligation to us. If KHAN is not to be delivered to the Czechs, this fact should be utilized by us to create a credit for us within these anti-Soviet forces.

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